

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF A NEW SUBGENUS OF BATS AND A NEW SPECIES OF MOLERATS.

By AUSTIN ROBERTS.

PLATYMOPS PETROPHILUS spec. nov.

This bat has a superficial resemblance to *Nyctinomus aegyptiacus* (S. African specimens), but upon close examination is found to differ in having the ears more widely separated at the inner base; the antitragus represented by a mere thickening of the lobe; the horny points on the upper part of the ear commencing near the rim of the ear and not far down as in *aegyptiacus*; the thumb very thick; the first and fifth toes also very thick—equal to double that of either of the other three—and thickly covered above and on the outer surface with fine white bristly hairs, but with hardly any of the very long bristles found in *aegyptiacus*; the ears are haired as in *aegyptiacus*, but the area around the fibulae is more sparsely covered with white hairs. The ears arise about 4mm. apart to a height of a little more than 1 mm. and the upper margin thence for about 13 mm. is practically horizontal, thence curving downwards a little way, increasing the breadth of the ear to 15 mm., then downwards and very slightly inwards for about 9.5 mm. to a point whence an increasing tendency inwards for 4 mm. carries the lower margin in an almost straight line to the outer base; the antitragus is represented by a broadening and thickening of the lobe, flattened or slightly folded on the upper surface, with only a slight emargination beyond its outer edge; the tragus is like that of *aegyptiacus*, quadrate, rather narrower at the base than the tip, with a slight notch in the outer edge. The horny points on the upper margin of the ear are five in number just below the horizon, the rest on the edge of the ear, producing a saw-like horizon. The lips are wrinkled, the nostrils sub-lateral and no glands appear to be present. The wings arise on the tibia at about one-third of the length of the tibia from the feet.

The skull of the type is, unfortunately, fragmentary, having been crushed when the rock was overturned under which it had taken up its abode. Nevertheless, from what there is of it, the dentition is clearly seen to be numerically identical with that of *N. aegyptiacus*, but the skull is flattened as in *Platymops* Thos. (Ann. & Mag. N.H., ser. 7, vol. 17, p. 499, 1906); the premaxillae do not meet anteriorly, and the incisors are large and convergent; the foremost premolar (P^2) is small, but easily seen without the aid of a lens, and is situated between the C and P_4 , well within the tooth row; the lower anterior premolar is slightly smaller than the posterior premolar.

Dimensions (taken from a spirit specimen): Length of the head and body 53 mm., of the tail 38, of the free portion of the tail 15; diameter of the ear, vertically 14, horizontally 15; height of tragus 2.5; length of snout to the inner base of the ear 7; forearm 42; thumb 7; third digit, metacarpal 42, 1st phalanx 16, 2nd without the cartilage 15, with the

cartilage 22; fourth digit, metacarpal 41, 1st phalanx 15, 2nd phalanx without cartilage 8.5, with cartilage 11.5; fifth digit, metacarpal 27, 1st phalanx 11, 2nd with the cartilage 7.5; tibia 9; hind foot length (c.u.) 8, breadth 4; breadth of ankle pad 2. Skull: Length of dental series, from front of C to back of M3, 7.4; greatest length of mandible 13.5.

Type: Adult male, in spirits, taken by G. van Dam at Bleskop, near Rustenburg, 2nd February, 1917.

PLATYMOPS HAAGNERI spec. nov.

A small species having an affinity to *P. petrophilus* in the dental formula, flattened skull, absence of a definite antitragus, shortness and number of the bristles on the toes, and in the horny points on the upper part of the ears being situated near the horizon of the ear; but differing therefrom in its smaller size, the horny points on the ears only two in number; the lower P2 much smaller than the P4, which is higher, the tips of M₁, P₄ and C forming an almost straight line at a slight angle rising forward; the upper incisors are also comparatively shorter than in *petrophilus*, and a cingulum can be seen in P2 with the aid of a lens. The lower incisors are bifid. The bony palate extends well behind the molars.

Dimensions of the type in spirits: Length of the head and body 50 mm.; of the tail 32, of the free portion of the tail 13.5; ear, height 10, breadth 13.5; height of the tragus 2.3; length of forearm 37; pollex (c.u.) 5; third digit, metacarpal 37, 1st phalanx 14, 2nd without cartilage 12; fourth digit, metacarpal 36, 1st phalanx 12.5, 2nd phalanx without cartilage 6; fifth digit, metacarpal 25, 1st phalanx 10, 2nd 4.7; tibia 10; hind foot, length (c.u.) 6.5 Skull: Greatest basal length 16.2; zygomatic width 10; width at mastoid 9.8; width of brain case 9; interorbital constriction 3.7; basilar length 13.1; palate length 5.5; length of dental series, from front of C to back of M3, 6; width of palate taken outside the molars 7; greatest length of mandible 12.

Type: Adult male from Keetmanshoop, Damaraland, presented to the Museum by Mr. Sigmund Haagner.

These two species apparently belong to the genus *Platymops* Thos., but differing as they do in the dental formula, the P2 being present, I propose to place them in a new subgenus bearing the name of SAUROMYS, of which *P. haagneri* maybe taken as the genotype. The following figures will indicate the difference in the height of the skull of *N. aegyptiacus* and the present new species, the measurements having been taken from the tips of the P⁴ vertically parallel to the top of the premaxilla:

N. aegyptiacus 6.5 mm., *P. petrophilus* 4.2, *P. haagneri* 4.

GEORYCHUS PALKI spec. nov.

Most closely allied to *G. anomalus* nihi in having the nasals long and narrow and the same buffish grey coloration; but differing from this and all other members of this group in having a very distinct semi-circular notch in the upper anterior angle of the ocular area of the skull, this notch effecting a thinning of the arch of the maxilla above the antorbital foramen and opposite the antorbital process. In two adult specimens the hindmost molar is very large, equal in diameter to the foremost tooth.

Dimensions: Length of the head and body 150 mm.; tail 22; hind

,foot (s.u.) 29. Skull: Extreme length from the tips of the incisors 42.4; length from the apex of the premaxilla 38.7, from the tips of the nasals 37; basilar length 32.5; greatest zygomatic width 29.2; width of brain case 16.8; mastoid width 20; inter-orbital constriction 8.4; width of premaxilla 8.7; width of incisors at the exposed base 6.4; length of molar series 7.5; diastema 12.8; length of bony palate 24.2; greatest diametre of bullae, including the internal projection, 10.3; nasals 15.6 x 4.1.

Type: Old male, No. T.M. m 2085, taken at Venterskroon, on the banks of the Vaal River, Potchefstroom District, 24th March, 1917. Also a series of five younger specimens from the same colony, showing the same characters; but unfortunately the only female captured is not mature and the number of mammae is not known.

I have named this animal after Mr. Robert Palk, who materially assisted me in effecting their capture.

Besides these specimens, two others were captured in another colony, an adult female and a young adult male, which have all the characters, including the number of mammae, of *G. natalensis* mihi, though they are somewhat paler on the muzzle. This again illustrates the necessity for carefully noting which colonies specimens were captured in, each species apparently living upon a particular vegetable food.